

Date: 3/27/99

Dockets Management Branch (HFA-305)  
Food and Drug Administration  
5630 Fishers Lane, Room 1061  
Rockville, Maryland 20852

Re: Docket No. 98N-1038, Irradiation in the Production, Processing, and  
Handling of Food

7131 '99 MAR 31 P2:03

To whom it may concern:

I support the recommendation by the Center for Science in the  
Public Interest regarding labeling of irradiated foods:

"any foods, or any foods containing ingredients that have been  
treated by irradiation, should be labeled with a written statement on the  
principal display panel indicating such treatment. The statement should be  
easy to read and placed in close proximity to the name of the food and

Juno e-mail printed Wed, 24 Mar 1999 21:07:51, page 7

accompanied by the international symbol. If the food is unpackaged, this  
information should be clearly displayed on a poster in plain view and  
adjacent to where the product is displayed for sale."

Like other labels, irradiation labels are required by FDA to be  
truthful and not misleading. I believe that the terms "treated with  
radiation" or "treated by irradiation" should be retained. Any phrase  
involving the word "pasteurization" is misleading because pasteurization  
is  
an entirely different process of rapid heating and cooling.

I recognize the radura as information regarding a material fact  
of  
food processing. The requirement for irradiation disclosure (both label  
and radura) should not expire at any time in the future. The material  
fact  
of processing remains. Even if some consumers become familiar with the  
radura, new consumers (e.g., young people, immigrants) will not be. The  
symbol should be clearly understandable at the point of purchase for  
every  
one. If there is no label, consumers will be misled into believing the  
food has not been irradiated.

I urge you to place the comments received on the Internet so that  
the public can be informed about who is participating in this comment  
process.

Sincerely,

98N-1038

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